



CROOK AND WILLINGTON
URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1937.



ANNUAL REPORT.

CROOK AND WILLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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VICE-CHAIRMAN: - COUNCILLOR FREDERICK HUNT.

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Electrical and Public Lighting Engineer,
W. REDSHAW, A.M.I.E.E.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health,
FENWICK LISHMAN, M.B., B.S.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health,
JOHN CHARLTON MOOR, M.B., B.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, A. CUMMINGS, M.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector, H. W. ELLIS, A.R.S.I.

Surveyor, E. W. AYTON, M. Inst. M. and Cy. E.

Assistant Surveyor, S. HALL.

INTRODUCTORY LETTER.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CROOK AND
WILLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have pleasure in submitting my Fourth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your Area for the year 1937, though this is of course the first Report for the combined area of Crook, Willington and part of Auckland Rural District, now known as the Crook and Willington Urban District.

From the Public Health point of view I believe that this amalgamation of the areas will prove very advantageous.

I have to report considerable progress in connection with your slum clearance programmes though a tremendous amount of work still remains to be done.

I wish to thank Mr. Omand, Mr. Ayton and Mr. Cummings for all their help, not only in connection with this report but at all times. Your Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Cummings) always maintains the closest possible co-operation with me, and readily investigates any complaints received with a view to having them remedied immediately.


Finally, I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your continued help and encouragement, and for your obvious desire to improve the conditions of the people resident in this area.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FENWICK LISHMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.



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ANNUAL REPORT.

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. The Crook and Willington Urban District has a total area of 15,476 acres.

Population. 28,640.

Inhabited Houses. 8,160.

Rateable Value. £92,893.

Social Conditions, etc. Mining, Coke Manufacture, Brick-making, and Agriculture are the principal industries carried on in the Area. There has been an improvement in the local coal trade, but a considerable amount of unemployment persists.

The occupational centres continue to do good work, and we must be grateful to the staff of the Ministry of Health for their continued interest and help.

The Crook and District Auxiliary Development Committee have succeeded in attracting a new industry to the Area, a joinery and timber factory, and it is hoped that other industries will follow. I hope by this means that migration to the South, which has such a detrimental effect on your Area, will be very much diminished.

The Means Test and the policy of migration continues to break up family life here. This is greatly to be deplored, and it adds considerably to our housing problem.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

Crook Urban District (for the first 3 months of 1937.)

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	35	15	20
Illegitimate	...	1	1	0

Willington Urban District (for first 3 months of 1937.)

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	24	9	15
Illegitimate	...	3	2	1

Part of Auckland Rural District Council (prior to its inclusion in the Crook and Willington Urban District.)

Unobtainable.

Crook and Willington Urban District (for 9 months only.)

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	302	156	146
Illegitimate	...	11	6	5

Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 14.5.

Still Births.

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	14	6	8
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) was 15.2.

Deaths.

Crook Urban District (for the first 3 months only.)

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
	40	22	18

Willington Urban District (for the first 3 months only.)

<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
45	22	23

Part of Auckland Rural District (for first 3 months only.)

<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
40	27	13

Crook and Willington Urban District (for 9 months only.)

<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
227	111	116

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.2.

Deaths from puerperal causes.

Crook Urban District (for first 3 months only.)	Nil.
Willington Urban District (for first 3 months only.)	Nil.
Part of Auckland Rural District (for first 3 months only.)	Nil.
Crook and Willington Urban District (for 9 months only.)	Nil.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 6.1.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	67.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	63.8.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	3.1.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	41
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	2

Causes of Death.

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
All Causes	...	...	182	170
Diabetes	...	...	2	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	11	11
Heart Disease	...	...	21	41
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	18	17
Aneurysm	...	...	0	0
Bronchitis	...	...	10	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	6	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	3
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	2	0
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	0	2
Appendicitis	...	...	1	0
Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	...	0	2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	0	0
Measles	...	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	4	3
Influenza	...	...	12	12
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	1	0
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	7	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	1	0
Syphilis	...	...	0	1
G.P.I. Tabes, etc.	...	...	1	0
Cancer	...	...	21	20
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	2	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	2	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	1	3
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0	0
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	0	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	9	5

Senility	...	...	10	8
Suicide	...	...	1	1
Other Violence	...	...	7	0
Other defined Diseases	...	...	15	13
Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	2	3
Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	...	...	0	0

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

These have been enumerated at the beginning of this Report.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

All Bacteriological Examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Examinations of Throat Swabs, Sputums, Fæces, Milk and Water have been conducted from time to time.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The District is well provided for in this respect. The Miners' Welfare Scheme have been responsible for a number of our best ambulances. In addition to these there are works ambulances, and one private ambulance in addition to the ambulance at Helmington Row Hospital, which is kept for infectious fever cases only.

(c) Nursing in the home.

The general standard of nursing in the Area is good. The local authority does not provide any district nurses, but a number of Nursing Associations are maintained in the Area by public subscription.

There are 9 district nurses and 6 certified midwives practicing in the Area. Four of the district nurses are also certified midwives, and practice midwifery as well.

(d) The following clinics and treatment centres are available for the inhabitants of the Area.

Nature of Clinic or Centre.	Name and Situation	Nature of Accommodation.	By whom Provided.
Maternity and Child Welfare	Church Hall, Crook.	Consultations Weekly.	Durham County Cncl.
do.	P.M. School, Stanley.	do.	do.
do.	Parish Hall, Willington.	do.	do.
School Clinic Ophthalmic and Dental	Ninefields, Bishop Auckland.	do.	do.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	do.	Consultations Twice weekly	do.

All these centres are doing a splendid work, especially in the very important sphere of Preventative Medicine, and I would be glad if greater advantage was taken of them.

(e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

All serious accident cases are admitted to the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the County Hospital, Durham, or the Lady Eden Hospital, Bishop Auckland.

General Medical and Surgical cases are sent to either Newcastle, Durham or Sherburn Hospitals. Sick children may be sent to these Hospitals also, or to the Fleming Hospital, Newcastle, or the Babies Hospital, Newcastle.

Maternity cases are admitted either to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle, or to the County Maternity Hospital, Bishop Auckland.

Venereal Diseases—Durham and Newcastle.

Tuberculosis—Helmington Row Sanatorium, Crook, and several other County sanatoria.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia cases may be sent to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital.

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum may be removed and treated by the County Authority.

Infectious Fevers cases are usually admitted to the Infectious Fevers Hospital, Helmington Row.

Many chronic or incurable cases are sent to the Public Assistance Hospital, Oaklands, Bishop Auckland, where excellent attention and treatment is given.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I. (1) Water.

The new Burnhope Reservoir is now in use, and this will prove a valuable addition to the water supplies. For the most part the water supply has been quite satisfactory both in quantity and quality. A few complaints were received, and I found the officials of the Durham County Water Board most anxious to help. Both bacteriological and chemical examinations are made by the Water Board, but no examinations were found to be necessary locally.

(2) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Sewerage, 9" Sewer laid to new Housing Estate, Foundry Fields, Crook.

9" Sewer laid to new Housing Estate at Roddymoor.

Sewage Disposal.

No change during the year, schemes are in course of preparation for new Disposal Works at Low Wadsworth and Willington.

II. Rivers and Streams.

No change during the year and no action taken regarding pollution.

III. (1) Closet Accommodation.

Total number of water-closets in District	3495
„ „ ash-closets „	1677
„ „ ash-pit privies „	168
„ „ pail closets „	22
„ „ chemical closets „	2

A grant is given by the Council of half the cost of any conversion to the water carriage system made by an owner, the total grant not to exceed £4 in any one conversion. A total of 289 conversions have been made during the year. It is very desirable that a commencement should be made with a privy conversion scheme throughout the area as early as sewers and disposal works permit.

(2) Public Cleansing.

In Willington, Oakenshaw, Page Bank, parts of Stanley, Billy Row and Crook, the cleansing is done by direct labour.

There are 5 motor-wagons, 1 horse and two carts owned by the Council, and 1 hired horse engaged in this work, together with 14 men and one foreman, two of the men being engaged partly on cleaning the refuse tips. The remainder of the District is cleansed by contract, there being 45 districts covered by 18 contractors. I am of the opinion that it would be to the benefit of the area as a whole if all the cleansing were carried out by direct labour, and this should be given serious consideration as soon as a privy conversion scheme is initiated. It should be possible to carry this out progressively as the scheme is completed in each of the districts at present catered for by contractors.

(3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

It was found necessary to serve the following notices as the result of inspections carried out in the Area.

	<i>Informal Notices.</i>	<i>Nuisances Abated.</i>
Dwelling Houses, Structural defects	7	7
Cowsheds 	1	1
Bakehouses 	1	1
Slaughter Houses 	1	1
Ashpits and Privies ...	10	9
Water Closets 	1	1
Defective House Drainage ...	23	23
Water Supply 	4	4
Deposits of Refuse or Manure	1	1
Other Nuisances 	19	17
	<hr/> 68	<hr/> 65

(4) Shops.

As the population of this combined District is now more than 20,000 it will be necessary for an appointment to be made

of an inspector to carry out all the provisions of the Shops Acts. During the year the only parts of the Acts under which inspections have been made are those relating to Sanitary Accommodation, Heating and Ventilation. No notices have been served.

(5) Smoke Abatement.

The principal source of smoke nuisance in the District is from the heap at Brancepeth Colliery which dominates the streets in the near vicinity and at all times emits a considerable amount of smoke and fumes which would appear to be detrimental to the health of those people inhabiting these houses. Unfortunately, as long as this method of tipping stone, etc., from the Colliery continues, this nuisance will remain, and I would be glad if, at some future date, other means for disposing of this material could be found.

(6) Swimming Baths and Pools,

There are no such baths in this Area.

(7) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No complaints of infestation by bed bugs in houses have been received during the year. Throughout the Area there is a general high standard of cleanliness in the majority of the houses visited.

IV. Schools.

These are all under the control of the County Council.

Section D.**Housing.**

New houses erected and occupied during the year ended December 31st, 1937 :—

Crook	Foundry Fields	(Machell)	5
„	15 Lax Terrace	(Lax & Sons)	1
„	West Road	(Taylorson)	1
„	Foundry Fields	(N.E. Housing Association)	94
Roddymoor		(Clarke)	1
Hunwick Station		(Rawe)	1
Witton-le-Wear	Cemetery Bank	(Byers)	2
Toronto		(Durham County Agricultural Committee)	1
Willington	Hunwick Lane	(Bowman)	2
„	North Lane	(Thorns)	2
„	„ „	(Walton)	1
„	West Road	(Makelin)	1
„	High Street	(Hateley)	1
Total			113

The houses at Foundry Fields, which have been built by the North Eastern Housing Association to re-house the inhabitants of houses condemned under the Slum Clearance Acts, are very satisfactory, and might well serve as a model for future housing schemes here. So far as working-class houses are concerned, practical utility should not be sacrificed for beauty. It is my considered opinion, though many will disagree with me, that every new working-class house in this area should have its own back-yard with access from a back street.

Once again I have to report that considerable delay in our re-housing schemes has occurred owing to the great difficulty in obtaining suitable sites. There is a widespread demand for better housing, and a large number of houses will have to be built before this demand is satisfied.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Housing Acts)	...	...	...	492
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				537
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	...	...	...	492
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				492
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			...	462
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		...	...	30

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	30
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(A.) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...		Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :			

(a)	By owners	...	...	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners			Nil.

(B.) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:			
(a)	By owners	...	...	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners			Nil.

(C.) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in Pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	Nil.

(D.) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	3
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936 :---Part 4, Overcrowding.

(a.)	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	629
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	648	
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	2914	

(b.)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	Nil.
(c.)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	Nil.
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases			Nil.
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for abatement of overcrowding	...	...	Nil.

Section E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(A) Milk Supply.

The following is a copy of the report of the County Veterinary Officer for the past year :

1.	No. of visits to cow-keepers	...	180
2.	No. of cows examined	...	2240
3.	General condition and type of cows	...	Good
4.	General cleanliness of cows		Fairly good
5.	General conditions of sanitation		Fairly good
6.	Chief methods of milk disposal	Retail and Wholesale	
7.	Number of animals slaughtered under Tuberculosis Orders :		
	(a) Tuberculosis of the udder or giving T.B. milk		3
	(b) Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	3
		Total	6
8.	Number of cases of disease other than Tuberculosis (chiefly mastitis)	...	25

General Observations.

On a number of farms the conditions under which milk is produced are unsatisfactory and this is due partly to the unsuitability of the premises and partly due to carelessness of the farmer. More frequent grooming of cows is indicated. On the whole, however, there has been a slight improvement in the hygienic conditions since my last reports on the Crook and Willington Districts prior to the union. Also a number of excellent dairy herds and premises have been added to this District from the Auckland Rural District by the extension of boundaries.

There are 117 persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, 21 of whom are wholesale producers, 87 producers and retail purveyors and 9 retailers of milk.

During the year 5 samples of milk have been taken from persons wishing to be licenced as producers of accredited milk. There are 2 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and 24 producers of accredited milk in the Area.

(B) Slaughterhouses, Meat and other Foods Inspections.

All the 25 slaughterhouses in the District have been regularly inspected together with the retail premises in connection with these, and the stalls on the market at Crook. Other premises where food is prepared or stored for sale have also been inspected when circumstances occurred to make this advisable and as occasion offered. The question of a public abattoir has been considered and would be of great advantage in every way to the Area.

The following is the summary of all meat, etc., condemned during the year as unfit for food.

	<i>Stones</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	
5 carcasses of cow beef	185	5	Tuberculosis
1 carcass of heifer beef	44	0	„
2 sides of cow beef	44	7	„
8 forequarters of cow beef	96	7½	„
Organs, fat, etc.	50	7½	„
1 carcass of mutton	4	10½	Suffocation
1 carcass of mutton	1	11	Oedema
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	427	6½	

Total weight, 2 tons, 13 cwts., 2 stones, 6½ pounds.

This was found in the course of routine inspections of the slaughter-houses at the time of slaughter and when the attention of the owners was called to the unsound or diseased conditions they surrendered the meat, etc., to be disposed of so as to prevent it being used for human consumption.

(C) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, etc.

The County Council is the Authority which is responsible for carrying out this Act.

(D) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried out by the County Council.

(E) Nutrition.

No special investigation has been made on the subject of nutrition.

(F) Shell-Fish (Molluscs.)

There are no shell-fish beds in this Area.

Section F.

Infectious Disease.

No change in the hospital accommodation for infectious diseases has occurred during the year.

Owing to the change in Area it is not possible to give comparative figures with the previous year.

It will be seen from the Table below that 200 cases of Scarlet Fever and 179 cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year. Many of the cases of Diphtheria were of the Gravis type. Once again I have to report that from one cause or another, a number of cases of Diphtheria were in an advanced condition on admission. Diphtheria Anti-toxin was not usually given prior to admission to hospital. There was not much demand for Diphtheria Immunization during the year.

Almost every case of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever was admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Helmington Row. In every case the bedding was put through the steam disinfecter, and the house adequately stoved.

<i>DISEASE.</i>		<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Smallpox	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	200	198	0
Diphtheria	...	179	179	7
Enteric Fever	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	0	0
Pneumonia	...	22	0	9
Erysipelas	...	9	0	0

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

The following Table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases in the Area during the year.

DISEASE.	Und 1 yr	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total
Scarlet Fever		5	5	10	13	82	50	20	13	2			200
Diphtheria		1	6	8	7	58	63	24	8	2	2		179
Puerperal Fever									2				2
Puerperal Pyrexia									1				1
C. S. Meningitis	1		1										2
Pneumonia		2	2		2	5	2		2	3	4		22
Erysipelas					1				1		3	4	9
Varicella		1			4	7							12

Diphtheria
Immunizations.—
Late Crook Urban District
Willington Urban District
Auckland Rural District

17
—
32
}
Total
49

